

# Mother

## OF ALL MISSIONS

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*A California National Guard Soldier is sent on a reconnaissance mission in Iraq and finds her son.*

You've all seen the commercial, a mother weaving through football players, dodging tackles, in some cases, manhandling brutes, carrying a bowl of soup to her son. Making sure her boy has nutritional ingredients necessary to function. Then you have the star athlete, humbly caving into his mother's request despite potential harassment from his fellow players.

Imagine that mom, Sergeant Anna Berber-Giddings, in a desert Battle Dress Uniform, laboriously working long hours on the S-1 staff, battalion personnel section for the 223rd Military Intelligence Battalion in Iraq, looking out for several soldiers. Then, one day, her commander, Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Ryan, walks in and says, "We're going for a ride."

The intelligence officer, unknown to Berber-Giddings, has done a little research and has a surprise in store for her. So he tells her to "follow this road, and that road, turn here, for the next 30 kilometers." The route leads to somewhere near Baghdad, Iraq. Berber-Giddings, meanwhile, believes that she's on a routine reconnaissance mission. Finally they arrive at the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment Headquarters—part of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, sometimes referred to as the "digital division."

Ryan and Giddings approach the battalion commander. Ryan asks, "Do you have a soldier by the name of Julio Lopez in your battalion?" Apprehensively, the battalion commander responds, "Maybe. Why?"

"My driver is his mom!," says Ryan. The revelation throws a completely new reflection on the situation. Understanding that he is now playing with fire that could potentially burn him faster than a general officer on the rampage, the battalion commander's attitude transforms from suspicion to compliance. "Oh! Yes, J-Lo!" the commander says. "He's my track driver. He's around here. I thought you were going to arrest him!"

But before the commander can retrieve his track driver, he and Ryan turn to see Mother and son already reunited – just five days after Mother's Day. Fortunately for Saddam Hussein, and his henchmen, they were nowhere between a mother and her son – or they would have learned what the "Mother of all Battles" really meant. 🐾